Abstract of the Disclosure

A network route tracing system traces a path through a network and identifies network components and communications links affected by the path. According to one embodiment of the present invention, a route is traced between two hosts in a network. The network is represented as a logical tree having a plurality of nodes. Each one of the nodes corresponds to a component in the network and each non-root node has a parent node. Two nodes are identified in the logical tree. A first node corresponds to a first host and a second node corresponding to a second host. If one of the two nodes exists at a lower level of the logical tree, then a first path is traced from the first node at the lower level to the parent node at a higher level until the parent node is at a same level of the logical tree as the second node. The first path is further traced up the logical tree from the parent node and a second path is traced up the logical tree from the second node until the first path and the second path meet at a same node.

5

10

15